

CLAIMS

1. A method for locating a tibial cutting block with respect to the proximal tibia comprising:

mounting an adjustment device having first and second members and a locking element rotatably mounted on the first member and engaging the second member, one of said first and second members having said cutting block mounted thereon, said member having said cutting block thereon slidably mounted with respect to the other member for movement in a proximal-distal direction;

disengaging said locking element by moving said locking element in a direction transverse to said proximal-distal direction out of engagement with the member having said cutting block;

sliding said first member with respect to said second member to coarsely set the locating of said cutting block, said locking element having a threaded surface for engaging a mating threaded surface on said second member, said locking element being spring biased into engagement with said threaded surface, said sliding movement between said first and second members permitted by moving said locking element in said transverse direction out of engagement with said threads; and

adjusting the location of said cutting block in small increments by rotating said locking element while said threads on said threaded surface thereon are in engagement with said threads on said second member.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said cutting block is mounted on said first member.

3. The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said second member has a shaft with said threaded surface.

4. The method as set forth in claim 1 further including the step of clamping one of the first or second members to the ankle.

5. The method as set forth in claim 4 wherein said adjustment element is a ring having a threaded internal diameter having a cross-section greater than the cross-section of said second member threaded shaft.

6. A device for positioning a cutting guide for a bone, the device having both free sliding and threaded adjustment along an axis comprising:

a first elongated member having a longitudinally extending threaded outer surface;

a second member for receiving said first member having an adjustment element mounted for rotation thereon and for movement transverse to a longitudinal axis of said first member, said adjustment element having a threaded surface selectively engageable with said first member threaded surface; and

a biasing element extending between said second member and said adjustment element for biasing said adjustment element into engagement with said threaded outer surface of said first member so that rotation of said adjustment element causes relative movement between said first and second members, said adjustment element moveable against said biasing element in said transverse direction out of engagement with said first member.

7. The device as set forth in claim 6 wherein said second member has a bore therethrough to slidably receive said first member.

8. The device as set forth in claim 7 wherein said bore and said first member have complimentary non-circular cross-sections.

9. The device as set forth in claim 6 wherein said adjustment element is a wheel having an inner bore with a threaded portion.

10. The device as set forth in claim 9 wherein said adjustment element inner bore has a non-threaded portion having a diameter larger than said threaded portion.

11. The device as set forth in claim 10 further comprising a guide block having a bushing portion rotatably mounted within said non-threaded bore portion of said adjustment element and a guide portion slidably mounted on said second member for movement in said directions transverse to said longitudinal axis.

12. The device as set forth in claim 11 wherein said guide portion includes said biasing element.

13. The device as set forth in claim 12 wherein said guide portion has at least one rail for slidably engaging groove in said second member.

14. The device as set forth in claim 11 wherein said guide portion includes an internal opening for receiving said first member.

15. The device as set forth in claim 6 wherein said bone cutting guide is a tibial resection guide.

16. The device as set forth in claim 15 wherein one of said first and second members includes an ankle clamp.

17. The device as set forth in claim 6 wherein said first member is telescopingly receiving within a bore in said second member.